(ग) क्या कुछ विभागों को राज्य सरकारों को स्थानांतरित करने का निर्णय लिया गया है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ङ) इस संबंध में अंतिम कार्रवाई कब तक की जाएगी तथा कितने संबंधित कर्मचारियों को राज्यों में स्थानांतरित किया जाएगा?

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा वित्त मंत्रालय (बैंकिंग, राजस्व तथा बीमा) में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कादम्बूर एम० आर० जनार्दनन): (क) से (ङ) सरकार के काम-काज को सुचारू रूप से चलाने के लिए संविधान के अनुच्छेद 77 के खण्ड (3) के अंतर्गत राष्ट्रपति द्वारा सरकार के कार्य-आवंटन नियम बनाये गए हैं। विभिन्न मंत्रालयों और विभागों में किया जाने वाला कार्य भारत सरकार (कार्य-आवंटन) नियमावली, 1961 में निर्दिष्ट किया गया है। प्रत्येक विभाग एक मंत्री के प्रभार के अधीन होता है और विभाग को, कार्य आवंटन नियमावली के अधीन आवंटित किये गये कार्य का निपटान विभाग के प्रभारी मंत्री के सामान्य अथवा विशेष निदेशों के अंतर्गत किया जाता है। इस प्रकार किसी भी निश्चित समय पर मंत्रालयों/विभागों की संख्या सरकार की प्रशासनिक सुविधा पर आधारित होती है।

Election in the Kendriya Bhandar

388. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 463 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th July, 1996 and state:

(a) whether the election of the delegates and Board of Directors have been held in the Kendriya Bhandar;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by which date these elections will be held and finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Elections of Delegates/ Board of Directors of the Soceity (Kendriya Bhandar) could not be held due to the fact that bye laws of Society, which were revised w.e.f. 10.4.1987, were challenged by some elected delegates/ Directors in Delhi High Court in 1987. The writ petition is still pending in Delhi High Court for final disposal. Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Delhi under whose supervision the elections are to be conducted had advised in the past to maintain the status quo and to held elections after the final judgement of the Delhi High Court. However, the registrar of Cooperative Societies, Delhi has now appointed Election Officer for conducting the elections who has set the election process in motion.

Production of crude oil

389. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a serious shortfall in the production of crude in the North-East, of late;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the shortfall will adversely affect the availability of crude to Numaligarh Refinery; and

(d) if so, the measures contemplated to ensure supply and if not, how?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The table given below indicates the trend of crude oil production in the North Eastern states during the past three years:

Company/ State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99* (Apr.-Dec.)
ONGC	1.964	2.046	1.557
OIL	2.870	3.094	2.477
Pvt./JV	0.013	0.014	0.032
Total	4.847	5.154	4.066

*Provisional

As against the target of 4.025 MMT during April-December, 1998, the production of crude oil was 4.066 MMT.

(c) and (d) Current level of crude oil production in North East is lower than total refining capacity in Assam after Numaligarh Refinery is operational. In order to supplement crude supply to North East refineries, imported crude supply to BRPL from Halida-Barauni and reverse pumping from Barauni through oil India pipeline has been planned.

Utilisation of Oil Pool Fund

390. DR. B.B DUTTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of Oil Pool Account;

(b) whether this position is satisfactory;

(c) how Government propose to use this fund; and

(d) whether there is a proposal for utilising this fund for meeting subsidy obligations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) With a view to contain the deficit in the Oil Pool Account and to enable the Oil Companies to maintain uninterrupted supplies of petroleum products in the country, the Government announced a comprehensive package on September 1, 1997. To end the oil pool deficit, the Government had decided that part of the liabilities of the Oil Coordination Committee to the Oil Companies shall be cleared through issue of Special Government Bounds by making one time payment to the Oil Companies. Consequently "10.5% Oil Companies (Non-Transferable) Special Government Bonds 2005" totaling to Rs. 12,984 crores were issued by the Government to the oil companies effective 02.043.98. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 6382 crores has been sanctioned for redemption of Bonds. Thereafter, "On Account" payments of Rs. 781 crores have been made till 31.01.99. the balance amount of bonds is about Rs. 5821 crocs as on 31.01.99.

Price Hike of LPG

391. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently hiked the price of LPG just only few days before the General Budget;

(b) if so, the reasons and justifications thereof;

(c) whether the common man have been affected due to price hike of LPG;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to review its decision and would bring down the price hike; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?